

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. - 28. (canceled).

29. (currently amended): A computer-aided design (CAD) system comprising:  
a computer;

a display device that is directed by the computer to display an image of a dental restoration body, the dental restoration body including a plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia, each indicium being a single, selectable, unique type of dental feature[[,]] that is different from ~~each other type~~ types of the indicia;

an input device that ~~enables a user to input~~ inputs a command to the computer to reference any of the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia to select a portion of the image to be modified, the selected portion being defined, ~~by~~ at least in part, by one or more of the distinct dentally specific indicia referenced by the command; and

at least one design tool that enables ~~the user to modify~~ the selected portion to be modified in any of a plurality of directions,

wherein the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia include at least one of a preparation border, an equator, a marginal crest, ~~a cusp~~ and a fissure, and

wherein, when the command references the preparation border, the selected portion extends from the preparation border to a center of an occlusal surface,

wherein, when the command references the equator, the selected portion is located between the preparation border and the marginal crest,

wherein, when the command references the marginal crest, the selected portion extends from the equator to the center of the occlusal surface, and

wherein, when the command references the fissure, the selected portion is the occlusal surface delimited by the marginal crest.

30. (currently amended): The A-CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia ~~comprise~~ include a plurality of dentally specific lines.

31. (currently amended): The A-CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia ~~comprise~~ include a plurality of dentally specific points.

32. (currently amended): The A-CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia ~~comprise a plurality of~~ include one or more dentally specific lines and ~~a plurality of~~ one or more dentally specific points.

33. (canceled).

34. (currently amended): The ~~A~~-CAD system according to claim 29, wherein ~~the~~ a selection is made by selecting a region between at least two of the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia.

35. (currently amended): The ~~A~~-CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the image of the dental restoration body ~~further~~ includes ~~a~~ the preparation border.

36. (currently amended): The ~~A~~-CAD system according to claim 35, wherein ~~the~~ a selection is made by selecting a region between the preparation border and at least one of the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia.

37. (canceled).

38. (currently amended): The ~~A~~-CAD system according to claim 29, wherein the computer directs the display device to display a plurality of symbols, each of the plurality of symbols representing a design tool.

39. (currently amended): An imaging processing method comprising the steps of ~~the steps of:~~

providing an image of a dental restoration body, the image of the dental restoration body including a plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia, each indicium being a single, selectable, unique type of dental feature[[,]] that is different from ~~each other type~~ types of the indicia;

accepting an input command to reference any of the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia to select a portion of the image to be modified, the selected portion being defined, ~~by~~ at least in part, by one or more of the distinct dentally specific indicia referenced by the command; and

modifying the selected portion with a design tool, the design tool enabling the selected portion to be modified in any of a plurality of directions,

wherein the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia include at least one of a preparation border, an equator, a marginal crest, ~~a cusp~~ and a fissure, and

wherein, when the command references the preparation border, the selected portion extends from the preparation border to a center of an occlusal surface,

wherein, when the command references the equator, the selected portion is located between the preparation border and the marginal crest,

wherein, when the command references the marginal crest, the selected portion extends from the equator to the center of the occlusal surface, and

wherein, when the command references the fissure, the selected portion is the occlusal surface delimited by the marginal crest.

40. (currently amended): ~~The A~~ An image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia ~~comprise~~ include a plurality of dentally specific lines.

41. (currently amended): ~~The An~~ image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia ~~comprise~~ include a plurality of dentally specific points.

42. (currently amended): ~~The An~~ image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia ~~comprise a plurality of~~ include one or more dentally specific lines and ~~a plurality of one or more~~ dentally specific points.

43. (canceled).

44. (currently amended): ~~The An~~ image processing method according to claim 39, wherein ~~the a~~ selection is made by selecting a region between at least two of the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia.

45. (currently amended): ~~The An~~ image processing method according to claim 39, wherein the image of the dental restoration body ~~further~~ includes ~~a the~~ preparation border.

46. (currently amended): ~~The An~~ image processing method according to claim 45, wherein ~~the a~~ selection is made by selecting a region between the preparation border and at least one of the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia.

47. (canceled).

48. (currently amended): A computer-aided design (CAD) system comprising:  
means for displaying an image of a dental restoration body, the dental restoration body including a plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia, each indicium being a single, selectable, unique type of dental feature[[,]] that is different from ~~each other type~~ types of the indicia;

means for inputting a command to reference any of the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia to select a portion of the image to be modified, the selected portion being defined, ~~by~~ at least in part, by one or more of the distinct dentally specific indicia referenced by the command; and

~~means for modifying at least one design tool that enables~~ the selected portion to be modified in any of a plurality of directions,

wherein the plurality of distinct dentally specific indicia include at least one of a preparation border, an equator, a marginal crest, ~~a cusp~~ and a fissure, and

wherein, when the command references the preparation border, the selected portion extends from the preparation border to a center of an occlusal surface,

wherein, when the command references the equator, the selected portion is located between the preparation border and the marginal crest,

wherein, when the command references the marginal crest, the selected portion extends from the equator to the center of the occlusal surface, and

wherein, when the command references the fissure, the selected portion is the occlusal surface delimited by the marginal crest.